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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-fourth session
Item 161 of the preliminary list*
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 21 June 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to refer to the letter dated 19 May 1999 (A/53/967-S/1999/586), addressed to you from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon.

Once again, the representative of Lebanon circulates statements that serve only to obscure and distract Member States from two ongoing facts, which he refuses even to address. First, the volatile situation in southern Lebanon is a direct result of a campaign of terror aimed against neighbouring Israel, which the Government of Lebanon fully supports. Second, Lebanon continues to reject any means, including those put in place by the United Nations, to negotiate a solution to the conflict. For these reasons Lebanon bears direct responsibility for the fact that the conflict continues.

Furthermore, it should be clear that Hizbollah, the Lebanese-endorsed terrorist group that is granted free reign in southern Lebanon, directs its attacks against Israel unconditionally, quite apart from any Israeli activity in the area. As Hizbollah's leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, said in an interview, "Palestine is occupied territory and the Israeli presence there is an occupation entity and illegal. There is no end to the struggle with such a regime" (Hassan Nasrallah, Joumhouri Islami, Islamic Republic of Iran, 6 March 1999).

In fact, Hizbollah's campaign against Israel is planned to continue beyond a possible Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon: "There are numerous ways in which we can pursue the enemies, even after they withdraw from our occupied land" (Mohammed Ra'ed, head of the "Political Council" of Hizbollah, as quoted by Radio Nur on 24 December 1998). Indeed, throughout the 1980s and 1990s, and to this day, Hizbollah has attacked the northern towns and villages of Israel

* A/54/50.

with rockets, deliberately targeting Israeli civilians. Just yesterday, Hizbollah fired 122-millimetre mortar rounds on the Western Galilee, forcing hundreds of Israeli civilians to seek protection in bomb shelters.

In this light, I wish to recall the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, contained in General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 23 October 1970, which provides that sovereignty carries a responsibility not to allow terrorist acts to be organized or prepared in one's territory. The policies of Lebanon stand in direct contradiction to this provision. Not only does the Government of Lebanon refuse to disarm and restrain these groups, in accordance with international law, but Lebanon openly adopts the terrorist group Hizbollah as its own, calling it the "Lebanese National Resistance" (A/53/878-S/1999/333). The Prime Minister of Lebanon has indeed praised Hizbollah's "jihad", as he put it, and its "resistance" (Voice of Lebanon, 16 February 1999).

I wish to remind you that Israel has repeatedly expressed its willingness to implement Security Council resolution 425 (1978) in its entirety. Resolution 425 (1978) not only calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces, but also for the restoration of international peace and security and the return of the effective authority of the Lebanese Government in the area. The declared willingness of the Lebanese Government to host an elaborate terrorist infrastructure, to permit its regular reinforcement and to endorse its operations directed against a neighbouring country, is totally incompatible with the last two provisions of that resolution.

For that matter, Lebanon refuses to negotiate with Israel on implementing resolution 425 (1978), despite Israel's continuing invitations to do so. Instead of working to fulfil international agreements, Lebanon chooses to stand behind the group that openly spurns them, as in the following statement, "Only resistance will ensure the return of our land, not resolution 425 (1978) nor the Security Council or the international community" (statement by Hizbollah's Sheikh Nasrallah, The Jerusalem Post, 5 January 1999).

This leaves Israel with no choice but to exercise its right to self-defence in accordance with international law. Nevertheless, Israel once again calls on the Government of Lebanon to return to the negotiating table to implement resolution 425 (1978).

I should be grateful if you will have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 161 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dore GOLD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/54/139

General Assembly

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Fifty-fourth session
Items 64 (b) and 76 (b) of the preliminary list*

Reduction of military budgets: objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures

General and complete disarmament: transparency in armaments

Letter dated 21 June 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you a copy of the Declaration signed at Ushuaia on 16 February 1999 by the President of Argentina and the President of Chile, on the occasion of the commemoration of the centennial of the embrace between President Roca and President Errázuriz at the Strait of Magellan (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 64 (b) and 76 (b) of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) Fernando E. **Petrella**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Argentine Republic

(*Signed*) Juan **Larraín**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Chile

* A/54/50.

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Annex

Joint presidential declaration on confidence-building and security-building measures

1. In a solemn setting of historical re-enactment, the President of the Argentine Republic, Carlos Saúl Menem, and the President of the Republic of Chile, Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle, met at Punta Arenas and Ushuaia on 15 and 16 February 1999 to commemorate the momentous encounter in 1899 between their predecessors, President Julio A. Roca and President Federico Errázuriz Echaurren, who in a visionary spirit promoted a phase of renewed friendship between Argentina and Chile. This paved the way for the signing of the May Pacts of 1902, which established the first agreements for limiting arms procurement, among many noteworthy acts.

2. Against that backdrop, the two Heads of State stressed their reiterated commitment to preserve, strengthen and develop the ties of enduring peace and perpetual friendship between Argentina and Chile, a commitment which is concretized in the Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1984 and extends auspiciously to all spheres of bilateral relations on the threshold of the twenty-first century. As proof of this, the Presidents paid tribute to Cardinal Antonio Samoré, an important figure in the achievement of those objectives, by inaugurating a monument in his memory.

3. The Presidents, in addition to sharing a vision of the future, reaffirmed the commitment of Argentina and Chile to the defence of their common interests in the Antarctic and the strengthening of the ties of bilateral cooperation in the framework of the Antarctic System.

4. The Heads of State noted that the intentions expressed in the Joint Presidential Declaration of 1991 with regard to strengthening a frontier of peace, in fulfilment of the democratic mandate of their peoples, have opened the doors to the twenty-first century in an auspicious manner. In that connection, they attached importance to the Joint Declaration of Buenos Aires of 15 December 1998 and to the Declaration adopted on the occasion of the signing of the Agreement on Delimitation of the Boundary from Monte Fitz Roy to Cerro Daudet, of 16 December 1998. Against that backdrop, they reiterated their satisfaction at the results achieved in the implementation of the confidence-building and security-building measures between the two countries and emphasized the high level of cooperation and dialogue between the armed forces of the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Chile. In particular, they expressed their satisfaction at the progress achieved in the bilateral consultation meetings between the ministers for foreign affairs and the ministers of defence, held at Zapallar in July 1997 and at Campo de Mayo in 1998, noting their contribution to the strengthening of bilateral cooperation and to the coordination of positions on security and defence issues. The meetings gave thrust and momentum to the consultations and coordination carried out in the framework of both the Standing Committee on Security and the mutual consultation mechanism between the chiefs of staff of the armed forces.

5. The Presidents reaffirmed the desire for their Governments to follow up the agreements adopted at the Miami and Santiago hemispheric summits with respect to confidence-building and security-building measures and to the progress verified, both at the conferences of ministers of defence of the Americas and at the conferences on confidence-building and security-building measures that have been held. They also attached importance to the Political Declaration of July 1998 establishing MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile as a zone of peace because of its contribution to integration and the growth of regional dialogue.

6. The two Heads of State agreed to continue to promote initiatives on confidence-building and security-building measures at the bilateral and regional levels, attaching value

to the spirit that gives rise to such measures and the contribution to international peace and security which they represent. In that connection, they recognized the importance of continuing to provide information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the system for standardized reporting of military expenditures.

7. The Presidents emphasized the value that the explicit statement of their countries' defence policies, through the publication of the *Book of the National Defence of Chile* in Chile and the legislation and presidential declarations on the subject in Argentina, has had. In that context, they wished to underscore the importance of having taken the step, together with their Governments, of requesting the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to draw up a proposal for establishing a uniform methodology for measuring defence costs in Argentina and Chile, instructing the competent authorities of their respective countries to take such steps as they may deem appropriate to implement the ECLAC proposal in the shortest possible time, with the intention of encouraging the spread of this joint decision to the rest of the region.

8. In signing this Declaration commemorating the "embrace at the Strait of Magellan", President Menem and President Frei pledged to ensure that the spirit of transparency and deep friendship which it embodies will be measured by and concretized in ever closer ties between Argentines and Chileans.

9. Signed at Ushuaia, Argentine Republic, on 16 February 1999.

Carlos Saúl **Menem**
President of the Argentine Republic

Eduardo **Frei Ruiz-Tagle**
President of the Republic of Chile